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Turkish Parliamentary Election Gives Stronger
Hand to Demirel

The results of Turkey's midterm parliamentary election Sunday have strengthened Prime Minister Demirel both within his governing coalition and with respect to his political opposition.

Unofficial final returns show Demirel's conservative Justice Party won 27 of the 54 Senate seats at stake and 5 of the 6 vacant National Assembly seats. Although Bulent Ecevit's Republican People's Party--Demirel's main opponent--won a higher percentage of the total vote (44.5 compared to 40.2 percent for the Justice Party) the Republicans took only 25 Senate seats and 1 Assembly seat.

Ecevit will no doubt claim victory for his Republican People's Party, pointing to its 11-percentage point improvement over the 1973 general election and its net gain of 17 Senate seats. These statistics do not, however, appear accurately to reflect the party's nationwide strength.

A larger percentage of the seats contested on Sunday were in Republican strongholds than would be the case in a general election. Despite this disadvantage, Demirel's Justice Party improved its percentage of the popular vote by some 10 percent.

Turkey's minor conservative parties did poorly. US embassy officials believe this indicates that Turkey may be gravitating back toward a 2-party system, after 2 years during which no party has had a majority and a series of weak coalition or caretaker governments resulted.

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Among the small parties that lost ground was Necmettin Erbakan's National Salvation Party, a member of the government coalition. Erbakan's recent uncompromising stands on a number of issues had largely immobilized Demirel's government. The party's poor showing could give Demirel an excuse to ignore Erbakan and to be more flexible than heretofore in dealing with pressing problems, such as Cyprus.

Demirel will, of course, be sensitive to the prospect of a national parliamentary election which must be held in 1977, and could even take place next year. He will want to avoid positions that could harm his party's chances for success at a later date.

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Spanish Military Being Drawn Into Political
Controversies

Spanish military officers are finding it increasingly difficult to remain detached from the country's political problems.

Three more middle-level officers were arrested last week in Barcelona in connection with the investigation of an underground network of dissidents in the military. They were said to be associated with the nine officers who were arrested last July and are now being detained in Madrid awaiting trial for illegal political activity. Four of the nine are being held incommunicado, a sign they will face serious charges.

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The dissident group--known as the Democratic Military Union--is composed of officers and non-commissioned officers from the army, navy and airforce. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Their goals include Franco's abdication, the establishment of a pluralist party democracy, and improved standards of efficiency in the armed forces.

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The military also is divided over what role it should play in restoring public order in Spain. Ultrarightists would like to see the army participate

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in the campaign against Spanish terrorists, but a majority of Spanish senior officers seem to disagree. They believe such a role would discredit the army's image and make it more difficult for the military to maintain order in the post-Franco period.

This latter theme was evident in two speeches by senior Spanish officers over the weekend. Navy Minister Admiral Pita de Veiga said Spain was living through delicate moments and that it was the military's task to "stand firm so that politicians can do their politicking." General Guitana, commander of the military academy took an even more reserved position when he said simply, "The army is above politics."

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